



Water Quality NewsFlash

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New Laws – SWRCB enforcement, public summaries of enforcement, etc.

SB 729 (Simitian) – This new law was sponsored by the California Coastkeeper Alliance and authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to carry out the enforcement functions of the Regional Boards if this does not duplicate the Regional Board efforts. Currently, citizens concerned about lack of Regional Board enforcement need to formally appeal to the State Board before it can become involved. The new law also requires both State and Regional Boards to post a summary list of enforcement actions on the Internet including final disposition (e.g., fines) as well as information on rates of compliance. The publicizing of enforcement actions is expected to encourage compliance. In addition, Regional Boards can be compared concerning rates of compliance within their regions which may encourage more aggressive enforcement. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_0701-0750/sb_729_bill_20060918_chaptered.html (Effective 1/1/07)

Enforcement actions are currently posted at the SWRCB website but may not be consistently reported: <http://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/enforcementOrders.jsp> The SWRCB requests feedback on how to make the site more useful. (Also check: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/publicreports.html>). Some Regional Boards currently include enforcement data in their Executive Officer reports posted on the Regional websites.

SB 1070 (Kehoe) – This bill was also sponsored by the California Coastkeeper Alliance and requires the State Board to post information on the results of water quality monitoring as well as assessment, research, standards, regulation, enforcement, and other items. It also establishes a *California Water Quality Monitoring Council*, administered by the State Board, which is intended to “reduce redundancies, inefficiencies, and inadequacies in existing water quality monitoring and data management programs.” The Governor’s signing message noted that this year’s budget includes an additional \$8.5 million for water quality monitoring. Increased monitoring will potentially lead to more waters being 303(d)-listed as impaired and therefore needing TMDLs. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_1051-1100/sb_1070_bill_20060929_chaptered.html (Effective 1/1/07)

AB 1881(Laird) - Requires DWR to update, and local agencies to adopt, the model local water efficient landscape ordinance, including restrictions on overspray and runoff http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_1851-1900/ab_1881_bill_20060928_chaptered.html (Effective 1/1/07)

Vetoed: AB 2838 (Pavley) – Authorized coastal and Bay Area counties to impose a fee of up to \$6 per vehicle to fund coastal pollution mitigation. **AB 2444** (Klehs) - Authorized a vehicle registration fee to fund environmental and transportation programs in the 9-county Bay Area.

Upcoming Meetings

- **California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)** – Nov. 17, Ontario; topic: *Cross-media Issues*. Also: update on copper in urban runoff and a regulatory panel with a SWRCB member and Executive Officers from two Regional Boards. <http://www.casqa.org/>
- **SF Bay Area Municipal Regional Permit** – Nov. 15, Oakland re: compilation of unresolved issues and rough draft of permit: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/mrp.htm>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>